

quarantine station here where passengers and crews of infected ships can be kept under observation, and that the alternative "surveillance" is impracticable here owing to local conditions and the great volume of the coasting traffic.

The Captain Superintendent of Police seconded.

Only the mover and seconder voted for the motion, which, we are glad to state, was carried by the President's casting vote.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

It is some days since I last wrote, and there has been absolutely nothing to record here but dam, sifting stagnation. For some days past we have had nothing to breathe but hot vapour, almost like the steam-weighted atmosphere at the mouth of a crater. Not a puff of wind and no power apparently in the blazing sunshine which intervenes between the rains to dry the reeking ground. But it will not last much longer, and then for a general revival.

With the return of the cold weather there will be, I fancy, quite an advent of new enterprises. Rumour whispers that a long contemplated scheme for tramways will be carried out here, which should be very profitable. Then the waterworks will be getting under way, and now there is talk of an aerated water plant; so, one way and another, we shall be quite brisk and lively. But at present no one can think of anything but the heat.

The community is sharply divided at this season into the folk who go to bed early and those who sit up late, and neither appears to know how the other half lives. Many find the only remedy for exhausted nature in sitting up with melody and glassed far into the small hours of the morning, and they declare they have the best of it. Neither party have such a good time of it, however, as to prevent their representatives slipping away on every possible occasion to fair Peking.

The last state of the river this season threatens to be worse than the first. The mud is galling as steadily as silver is declining, and prices are rising. Everyone prophesies ruin and other cheerful prospects, yet everyone and on living with as much apparent affluence and success as if no such thing as silver existed. Locally, perhaps, the chief consideration is copper, which in this latitude becomes a quantity to be reckoned with although it is never troubled about down South. Copper here confronts us as the real currency of China, and cash, cash, is the keynote of all business transactions, whether large or small, and the stings of small square-holed coins which are merely interesting curios in Shanghai, now hold a position of dignified importance in monetary circulation.

The silver coinage of the Peking Arsenal is not expected to have been a success. The last issue of dollars is said to be five canisters under standard value, and for this reason the Peking dollars are shunned as much as possible by the banks, though the Deutsch Asiatische Bank has just issued an express repudiating the suggestion that it is as particular as others in this respect. If the Deutsch Asiatische Bank like to take the Peking dollar, and it finds it worthy of circulation, it has a direct right to induce the publicity, but the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and the Chartered Bank are not bound to follow suit. The subsidiary coin minted at the Arsenal bears, I believe, even a more shady reputation than the dollar. This is another instance of the difference which characterizes Chinese and Japanese efforts. As everyone in Hongkong knows, the Japanese yen was regarded as such a sound reliable coin that it was accepted as a legal tender by the Straits Settlements, and now that Japan is withdrawing it in view of the pending gold coinage, will no doubt be greatly missed. The coin should be of some value in days to come, and faring left will probably lay in a stock before they pass out of circulation.

It seems doubtful now whether Li Hung-chang will, after all, return to his old post as Viceroy of Chihli now that Li Hung Tao is dead, brother of Li Kem Yui. Rumour has it that he will be admitted into the sacred circle in his place. What he will accomplish there is another thing. According to news from the South, Chang's all round will be the order of the day soon. I note that our Viceroy, Wang Wen Shao, is prophetically bespoken for two posts, one Viceroy of Wuchang, the other as co-director with Hu Yun-mei of the Peking-Shanghai Kwan railway. He will be missed here in either case, as he has been a very able Viceroy here, and done his duty as well as any. The newly appointed director of the above railway, Hu, was a man of exceptional parts, and during the construction of the line he has proved a strictly honest financier, and every one has been well pleased at his receiving the just reward of his labour without any deductions, for he well deserves his promotion.

Talking of railways of course leads one naturally on to the Belgian construction loan. The Belgian banking-house seems to have reached the winning post after many a number of false starts, but the great secret is preserved as to what has been actually won by this loan. Much has been said and written about China having sold herself and soul to Russia, but sometimes a rather strong doubt crops up as to whether China is quite as fast asleep as she looks. There is something suggestive of a knowing trick about this very Belgian loan which seems to indicate that China knows very well how to snore with one eye open when it suits her. The Government have dissolved all connection with Sheng, and made him for the time being a private individual, and for a glorious speculation, for which the formal permission for construction has been officially granted—nothing more. Sheng and Belgium have both consented to "play the game," but who supplies the pool? It is said that prior to the private individual scheme, Sheng tried to get the Peking-Tientsin line pledged as security for the new loan; but I question this. Some security other than rolling stock "Belgium" must have, and there is nothing to Sheng can possibly offer. A very reasonable supposition, therefore, is that Russia has given Belgium the nod which is as good as a wink to a blind horse, or in other words, that Russia has desired to build this line for purposes of her own, and has hired Belgium as a convenient tool which will not attract much of the public attention. If this is not the right interpretation of the scheme, will some of the able and logical brains with a more feasible explanation of this Belgian loan which demands no security in return. When the time comes for the negotiation of the line for Russian ends, then we shall have the fan of the fair. China will then be in the position to object, and if necessary appeal to the Powers without having in any way broken faith, or appearing inconsistent. This supposition is strengthened by the fact that China has objected very strongly not only to Russia constructing her own line through the three eastern provinces from Manchuria, but has also declined to construct the line in accordance with Russian dictation and several very intelligent Chinese with whom I have conversed on the subject have shown unmistakably that they do not see in Russia quite an angel of deliverance from all trouble. To give the devil his due, there can be no question that for putting two red

two together, and reading the character, a Chinaman is as good as most men and perhaps a bit better sometimes.

The air is again full of rumours of loans. A sixteen million loan with the Hongkong and Shanghai is the favourite, but I was given to understand on Saturday that particular one is off. There is something in the wind, however, of which we shall hear much before long.

THE UNREST IN INDIA.

THE SULTAN STARTS A JEHAD.

The Sultan of Turkey has, it is stated, started a Jihad or "Holy War" Committee at Constantinople, and intends to send envoys to India, Arabia, and the Trans-Caspian Provinces, calling upon all Moslems to help the Turkish Empire and not to let it crumble away as did the Moorish Empire. When "questioned" about this, the Sultan's advisers will of course deny it; but falsehood is to many second nature and we have yet to learn that "the unspeakable Turk" has a deep regard for strict veracity. Anyway, there is reason for believing that great influence is being exerted over the natives of India and the inhabitants of the borderlands of our Indian Empire, and it is certain that the density of the black storm-clouds now fast gathering over India cannot be modified by dials of vicious intrigues, official or otherwise. It will be interesting to see what follows the Sultan's letter to the Moslems now on its way to India, Arabia, and other countries. The Mohammedan press in India make no disguise in seditious and mischievous declamation about the Sultan's might. The following is a sample of their ravings:—"The Chief of twelve laws of Bedouin of Arabia has written to the Sultan of Turkey that the tyranny of the Christians over the Mohammedans is too hard for them to endure, and that he would, therefore, advise the Sultan to raise the standard of Mohammed, so that they may give the enemy an opportunity of testing their bravery." This paper is of opinion that, if the Bedouins are furnished with European arms by the Sultan, they will prove more than a match for the combined armies of the Christians of the whole world, the Sultan the Emperor or Master of the world.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS A MISTAKE.

Mr. Theodore Beck (Principal, Mohammedan College, Aligarh, India), writing to the *Times*, says:—"It is hoped that the murder of Sir R. Sed. P. Commissioner of Poona, will induce the Government of India to undertake a long neglected duty—the suppression of seditious writings in the Native Press of India. When the population is so incredibly ignorant and suspicious, could anything be more ridiculous than to treat them as if they were political economists and philosophical historians capable of estimating the benefits of British rule? Sir Syed Ahmed has said to me again and again:—"If the Government allows the people to be convinced through the utterance of the seditious Press that it is an English and a just cause of oppression then you will see that if there is a war with Russia on the frontier and the English arms sustain a slight temporary reverse, the whole country will rise. Government must do its duty in spite of unpopularity. It could not adopt the Machiavellian policy of gratifying the wishes of the Mahatma journalist, letting the plague do its work, and thus getting rid of once for all the nest of traitors. But since it has done its first duty of saving the lives of its subjects it is now time to do its second duty and curb their tongues. There is no need to interfere with the legitimate freedom of the Press. For all the advantages arising from a reasonable criticism of Government measures and the expression of the wants and grievances of the people, a procedure not only compatible with, but often dictated by, a sense of loyalty, can be enjoyed without permitting Anarchists to attack the foundations of the State. But direct incitement to mutiny and the publication of lies calculated to excite the people, such as that the British soldiers who were on plague duty forced their way into zenanas and violated the women, should be promptly and severely punished. Otherwise the evil will in the course of years steadily spread and a state of feeling will be produced that it will be almost impossible to deal with. I speak not as a Government official, for I serve a native body of trustees whose object is to spread civilization among the Indian Mahomedans and not primarily in the interest of England or the British Empire, for no mutiny could destroy the British rule, but chiefly in the interests of the 300,000,000 inhabitants of India whose welfare is in our charge and who would suffer terribly in life, in property, in civilization, and in progress by a repetition of the horrors and anarchy of 1857."

THE LEADERS DESIRE TO WIPER OUT THE CHRISTIANS.

The London *Daily Mail* writes:—"Warnings from India of disaffection caused by native mutiny-mongers are becoming more and more frequent, and while the *Daily Mail* has no ambition to pose as an alarmist in Indian matters, it would, in view of the serious news reported from Poona, call attention to its article headed 'Anglo-Indian Struggle,' which appeared in its columns of June 19th, and also to the article on Indian affairs published on the 14th.

"Early in the year, from a special commissioner, we received advice as to what might happen, and though the officials deny the unrest in India, it should not be forgotten that it was months ere they awoke to the fact that there was a famine, and that they did their utmost to dispel the plague under the mild term of bubonic fever.

The English press seems to have altogether missed the seriousness of the fact that the murder of Lieutenant Ayerst and attempted murder of Mr. Rand, the English Civil servant, took place at Poona. Now, Poona is within a few miles of Bombay, and as far as is Malabar from London, and is, at the present time, of the year, filled with English. To speak of the murder of the two servants of the Empire as the work of fanatical ignorant natives, it is the same kind of misapprehension of fact which caused the denial of the existence of mutiny in India in the House of Commons to be made, by a terrible coincidence, on the very day that the massacre at Cawnpore took place.

"There is nothing fanatic about the Poona murder. Poona is a centre of much of the seditious and mutiny-hatching of the whole country. The Poona Brahmins are notorious throughout the whole of India, and the educated among them particularly so. By their newspapers, by their secret meetings, and by their endeavours to stir up a revolt against the British power, they desire to wipe out the Christians and place themselves in their old position, by which they were enabled to blackmail and maltreat their simple fellow countrymen. Let Lord George Hamilton awake to the fact that events are brewing in India of which, apparently, he has no knowledge among these fanatical natives. By their newspapers, by their secret meetings, and by their endeavours to stir up a revolt against the British power, they desire to wipe out the Christians and place themselves in their old position, by which they were enabled to blackmail and maltreat their simple fellow countrymen. 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